quired profane habits of speech. They may have in after years become ashamed of the habit and honestly tried to overcome it, but in a state of fret, worry, or sudden excitement have forgotten themselves for the time being. Simon Peter was probably one of this kind, and when confronted by a servant girl about his identity began to "curse and to swear," and thus betrayed the character of his early associations. To Simon's lasting credit be it remembered that he upon reflection became so utterly disgusted with himself that he went out and wept bitterly.

It was Mr Curry's misfortune, and the disagreeable misfortune of society in his day, to have observed that there was another class of profane people. Their profanity was the outcome of their coarse, sacriligious characters or dispositions, and were thus to be regarded as moral monstrosities or mental monstrosities, or mental degenerates.

Trained as he had been, this is the way he felt and talked about "cussing," and who can demonstrate where he was mistaken in his views?

ROBERT BEALE.

About the year 1827 Robert Beale, of Botetourt County, Virginia, settled on Elk, a half mile southeast of the place where Mary's Chapel now stands. A bed of tansy near the roadside marks the spot where the residence stood. The house was built of hewn timbers and floored with plank sawn with the whip saw by

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hand, and was considered an excellent building at that time. His wife was Mary Vance Poage, daughter of Major William Poage and Nancy Warwick Poage, whose home was at Marlins Bottom. She was a lady of most excellent qualities of mind and heart. These worthy young people soon built up an attractive home in the forest, and they seemed fully contented with their surroundings. The neighborhood was called the Old Field Fork of Elk.

Mr Beale was very energetic and industrious, and while he owned servants, he worked with his own hands as laboriously as the humblest. It was believed he contracted his fatal illness at a log rolling.

The Sabbath days were mostly spent in prayer meetings and Sabbath school services with the families of David Gibson, David Hannah, and Joseph Hannah, their near neighbors, and for the most part held in his own dwelling. Ministers of the gospel made his home their place of preaching. Dr McElhenney, Revs Kerr, William G. Campbell, pioneers of the Presbyterians in his region, officiated at his residence, and pleasant, profitable meetings were the result.

In personal appearance Mr Beale was fine looking, his manners were those of a cultivated Christian gentleman. He was sincerely and intelligently pious and had he lived there is no estimating the influence he might have had all over our county, for he had come to stay and make this particular place his home for life. His ideal of a home such as he desired was to have ample pastures, with flocks of sheep and herds of cattle and horses, live removed from the extravagance and

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allurements of society life, so termed, have books and papers and be on pleasant terms with kind and honest neighbors. His aims were rapidly materializing in this picturesque region, famed for its bluegrass, fertile heavily timbered mountains, pure streams, cool, crystal springs, and quiet sheltered dales. His was the sagacity to perceive that for all the elements of true, happy prosperity for new beginners, no place could excel Elk as it then was. Therefore it was a real mysterious providence that a person so much needed in our county, and in such a sense the right man in the place after his own heart, with success just in reach, should be stricken with insidious disease, slowly pine away and at last die. His death occurred in 1833. On an eminence overlooking his home, where he frequently passed Sabbath evenings in summer with his wife and little daughter, his grave was made, and he now waits for the Redeemer to come, as he has promised to do to those who love his appearing.

SAMPSON L. MATHEWS.

Among the citizens of prominence in the early history of Pocahontas County was Sampson Lockhart Mathews, the first county surveyor. His grandfather was Sampson Mathews, one of the early residents of Staunton, whose wife was a Miss Lockhart, hence the name borne by members of the family connexion. She had a sister married to a Mr Nelson, and another married to a Mr Clark. Thus the Montgomerys and the Mathews became related.

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